

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/TD:JJO'NEILL:SP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197627

FOL REPEAT BERLIN 1659 SENT ACTION BONN INFO
SECSTATE BERLIN LONDON MOSCOW MUNICH PARIS AUG 16

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1659

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, PGOV, WB, GW

SUBJECT: ITU LF/MF REGIONAL RADIO CONFERENCE: BERLIN
ASPECTS

REF: A) BONN 13079 B) USBERLIN 558 C) BONN 12879

1. SUMMARY: WE AGREE THAT FRENCH REP HAS FOCUSED ON
DIFFICULT POINT IN NOTING THAT THERE MIGHT APPEAR TO BE
SOME INCONSISTENCY IF ALLIES WERE TO SAY ON ONE HAND THAT
FRG MAY REPRESENT BERLIN INTERESTS AT ITU CONFERENCE
BECAUSE SECURITY AND STATUS NOT INVOLVED BUT ON
OTHER HAND THAT ALLIES WILL REVIEW RESULTS OF CONFERENCE
TO DETERMINE WHETHER BERLIN SECURITY INTERESTS HAVE BEEN
AFFECTED (REF A). WE BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER,
TO COME FAIRLY CLOSE TO SQUARING THIS CIRCLE BY ADOPTING
APPROACH SUGGESTED IN MEMORANDUM POUCHED TO EMBASSY AND
DEPARTMENT LAST MARCH (REF B), AND UK BONN GROUP PAPER,
REF C, STRIKES US AS PROMISING EFFORT. END SUMMARY
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2. WE AGREE THAT ALLIES SHOULD AVOID GIVING FRG MANDATE INCLUDING FLAT STATEMENT THAT SECURITY AND STATUS NOT INVOLVED IN CONFERENCE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY IN ADVANCE THAT NOTHING WILL COME UP AT CONFERENCE THAT MIGHT AFFECT BERLIN'S SECURITY. MOREOVER, WE MIGHT TRY TO TURN SECURITY ANGLE TO OUR OWN ADVANTAGE AT CONFERENCE BY SUGGESTING THAT IT WOULD BE PRECISELY TOO GREAT A DISREGARD OF BERLIN'S VITAL BROADCASTING INTERESTS BY CONFERENCE THAT COULD INTRODUCE SECURITY ELEMENT AND CAUSE ALLIES TO REJECT CONFERENCE RESULTS. ALLIED DEFENSE OF FRG REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN'S INTERESTS AT CONFERENCE, THEREFORE, MIGHT BE BASED UPON POINTS CONTAINED PARA 6 OF UK PAPER, WITH DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY TO BE USED DEPENDING UPON VIRULENCE OF EASTERN ATTACK.

3. BASIC TO THIS APPROACH, OF COURSE, IS PREMISE THAT IT IS ONLY AFTER ALL RESULTS ARE IN THAT ALLIES WILL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THOSE RESULTS WOULD OR WOULD NOT AFFECT BERLIN'S SECURITY OR STATUS. THIS POINT MIGHT BE MADE IN SUCH A WAY AT CONFERENCE AS TO ALERT OTHER DELEGATES TO FACT THAT CONFERENCE DECISIONS SEVERELY TO BERLIN'S DISADVANTAGE MIGHT BE REJECTED FOR THAT VERY REASON BY ALLIES AS INIMICAL TO CITY'S SECURITY. POINT WOULD BE TO TRY TO GET ACROSS IDEA THAT IT IS NOT SO MUCH DISCUSSION OF REASONABLE DIVISION OF AIRWAVES THAT IS MATTER OF SECURITY AND STATUS BUT POTENTIALLY ONE-SIDED DECISIONS WHICH SEVERELY DISADVANTAGE CITY. COROLLARY OF THIS WOULD BE THAT CHANCES OF ALLIES REJECTING RESULTS OF CONFERENCE WOULD BE GREATLY INCREASED WERE CONFERENCE TO TAKE ANY ACTION INDICATING IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT FRG REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN'S INTERESTS SINCE NO OTHER STATE OR ENTITY WOULD BE COMPETENT TO LOOK AFTER CITY'S INTERESTS AT GENEVA. WE WOULD THUS SEE SOME ADVANTAGE IN MAINTAINING CONCEPT IN UK DRAFT PAPER THAT FRG (AND PERHAPS ALLIED SPOKESMAN) WOULD PUT CONFERENCE ON NOTICE THAT ALLIES WOULD MAKE FORMAL DECISION ON WHETHER CONFERENCE RESULTS COULD BE ACCEPTED ONLY AFTER CONFERENCE IS OVER AND FRG REPORTS BACK TO KOMMANDATURA. WE APPRECIATE FRENCH REP'S POINT THAT ALLIED REFUSAL TO ACCEPT RESULTS OF CONFERENCE COULD LEAD TO SOME BROAD-CONFIDENTIAL

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CASTING CONFUSION, BUT SUGGEST IT IS PRECISELY THIS LEVERAGE THAT MIGHT HELP TO ENSURE RELATIVELY EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF BERLIN'S INTERESTS. THERE MAY, THEREFORE, BE SOME TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN NOT MAKING FORMAL ALLIED DECISION KNOWN DURING CONFERENCE THOUGH OF COURSE IT WOULD ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE FOR ALLIED REPS TO INDICATE TO OTHER DELEGATES WHICH TYPES OF DECISIONS MIGHT RAISE GRAVE DIFFICULTIES FOR AK. GIVEN SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES

FRG AND ALLIES WILL FACE AT CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, WE
THINK ALLIES SHOULD NOT COMMIT
THEMSELVES AT OUTSET, AS SUGGESTED BY FRENCH REP, THAT THEY
WILL ACCEPT RESULTS. CONCEIVABLY IT IS FRENCH LACK
OF LF/MF BROADCASTING INTERESTS IN BERLIN THAT MAKE THEM
RELATIVELY RELAXED ABOUT MAKING SUCH A COMMITMENT AND
PREPARED TO ESCHEW USE OF SECURITY RESERVATION TO PROTECT
ALLIED INTERESTS. IF THAT IS CASE, WE WOULD HOPE THAT
THEY WOULD ULTIMATELY BE PREPARED TO DEFER ON TACTICAL
QUESTIONS TO ALLIES WHO HAVE MF BROADCASTING INTERESTS
TO PROTECT IN CITY. GEORGE

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